



Montana Students Reach Out And Put Their Hands On Aviation

Schools from around the state brought their students to Laurel for Aviation and Technology week. Laurel students had the opportunity to experience Aviation and Technology all week long, May 11-15, as aviation and space speakers visited the Laurel classrooms. Field activities took place on Thursday and Friday, students were moved between the Billings Logan International Airport, Laurel Municipal Airport, Thompson Park and the Laurel High School. Over 10,000 students viewed exhibits and aircraft fly overs.

This biennial event is the brain works of Laurel teacher, Jack Bayne, who was awarded the 1998 Montana Aviation Educator of the Year Award by the Montana Aeronautics Division. Jack Bayne has teamed with many other Laurel educators, aviators, business people, enthusiasts and military liaisons to arrange such an amazing aviation and technological event.

Students got a glimpse of life in space as they toured through the NASA Space Flight Center Simulator, a mock-up of the International Space Station lab and living quarters. The C-Span bus, a mobile television production studio of the national cable television network also visited Laurel. Other displays included the Marines, Air Force, Army, Stillwater Mining Company, Saint Vincent Hospital, Montana Rail Link, Rocky Mountain College, Helena College of Technology and the list goes on.

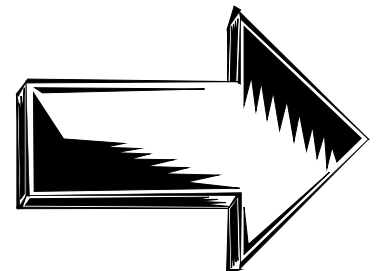
Jeanne Lesnik of Montana Aeronautics Division visited the Laurel schools speaking on aviation history dressed up as Harriet Quimby, the first US licensed woman pilot. The Montana search pilot and observer program was given to Laurel Middle School students.



The flyovers included F-14 Tomcats, F-16, F-18, B-52, B-1B, C130, A-10, H-60 Blackhawk Helicopter and more. The United States Army's Golden Knights made parachute jumps into the Thompson Park Complex both Thursday and Friday.

There is probably no other such gathering of industry, military, aviation and space displays geared toward students anywhere in the United States. Awesome job, once again, Laurel!

See photos pages 4-5.



Administrator's Column

FAA REVISES CFI REGULATION:

Responding to an Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Foundation (AFS) petition, the FAA has revised regulations to permit flight instructors to renew their instructor certificates at ANY time through Flight Instructor Refresher Clinics (FIRC's). Under the FAA's Part 61 regulation rewritten a year ago, a flight instructor could only renew their certificates within 90 days preceding the expiration date. Many flight instructors attend FIRC's annually to remain current which the AFS argued would enhance safety. After deliberating, the FAA agreed with the AOPA AFS. The AOPA AFS and flight instructors are very pleased with the FAA's revised position. The new regulation became effective May 28.

GAO BLASTS FAA WEATHER REPORTING:

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigating arm of Congress, has completed a study which reveals that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has done a poor job of improving the availability of critical weather information to pilots and other flight related personnel, despite the impact that hazardous weather can have on flight safety. GAO found that the FAA has made little progress in establishing a policy to relay weather information and has not done enough to coordinate efforts with the National Weather Service. The GAO study followed two previous studies, one by an advisory committee of the agency and one by the National Research Council which criticized the FAA for failing to take leadership in improving its weather system. The congressional study raised questions of the FAA's financial commitment to improving weather information, saying that "weather related projects receive low funding". Investigators found that the "FAA allocated less funding for aviation weather than for most other acquisition and research priorities." The GAO also pointed out a need for more training to better enable air traffic controllers to interpret weather information. An FAA spokesman stated that future weather projects will receive a bigger piece of the pie to improve the available technology - that the FAA between 1996 and 2000 is tripling its weather research budget. The flying public should know that pilots in the cockpit have access to the latest weather information available. About 24% of all accidents from 1987 to 1996 were weather related, according to data from the NTSB and thirty-five percent of the aviation fatalities in the same period were caused by weather related accidents.

OSHA PROPOSES TO EXTEND COMPLIANCE DATE FOR GA:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposes to extend General Aviation (GA) compliance date until April 10, 2000 requiring the aircraft stripping industry to not use methylene chlo-

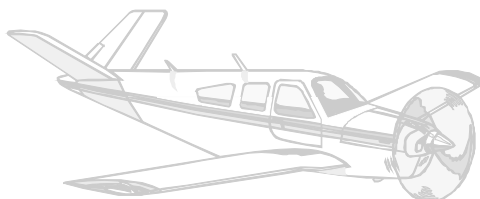
ride (MC). MC is commonly used by the GA industry to strip paint from aircraft. Although GA paint facilities have been continuing to try alternative strippers thus reducing the use of MC by about 75%, MC strippers are still considered by many to be the more effective stripper. The time extension will provide more time for more effective alternative stripping products to be developed.

SINGLE ENGINE IFR GETS FINAL APPROVAL:

In early May the FAA released full implementation of the single engine instrument flight rule (SEIFR) last month which clarifies the power requirements in aircraft to be used for SEIFR operations. The final rule was actually released in August 1997 however clarification was necessary prior to implementation due to confusion existing over the definition of an acceptable redundant power source for the gyroscopic instruments. James Coyne, President of the National Air Transportation Association stated "The real winners with this rule are the passengers who will be provided with a higher level of safety on single-engine aircraft because the operators can now avail themselves of the benefits of an IFR airspace system."

GPS JAMMING POSES TREAT:

According to a recent U.S. Coast Guard report(USCG), GPS jamming poses a serious threat to aviation safety. During a ten day period in late December and early January, sixteen aircraft experienced a "total loss" of Global Positioning System signals which was caused by false signal unintentionally transmitted from a USAF base in New York. The report cited other incidents and concluded that "for aviation, GPS jamming and interference pose a serious threat to aviation safety". The USCG report noted that a DOT study of using Loran as a backup for GPS navigation is due soon and is expected to paint a strong case for long-term continuation of Loran. The USCG report warned that a decision published in the 1996 Federal Radionavigation Plan to terminate Loran in 2000 has placed support of the system in jeopardy. The report concluded by making two things clear "As a high-powered, ground-based system, Loran is much less vulnerable to jamming and interference than GPS and its augmentations and - once Loran is decommissioned, it cannot be economically resurrected."



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1998 ACE Aviation Career Education Academy

The annual Helena ACE Academy will be held July 21 through the 24th. The ACE Academy is open to students in grades 9-12 who are interested in aviation. The FAA will sponsor and fund this years academy and Montana Aeronautics Division and Helena College of Technology are co-sponsors.

Each year the Ace Academy strives to give high school students the opportunity to experience aviation career opportunities. We are planning field trips to Helena College of Technology and the FireTraining Center, Great Falls Air National Guard, the Air Traffic Control Tower and the Great Falls Flight Service Station and Malmstrom Air Force Base. On Thursday, July 23, we will spend the day at Stemple Pass building survival shelters, learning basic wilderness first aid and the signals used for rescue will be taught. Friday will be our flight day and picnic in Helena.

The cost is \$50.00 for the academy and lodging is available at a local motel (The Aladdin Motel) at a reduced ACE Academy rate. The out of town students staying at the motel will be chaperoned.

This year's ACE Academy will be a rewarding aviation experience and probably the high spot of your summer vacation! The limit of students we can accommodate is 20, on a first come base.

For further information and registration packets call Len Wheeler, FAA at (406) 449-5270 or Jeanne Lesnik, Montana Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506



5010 Inspections – Coming To An Airport Near You

By: James R. Greil
Aviation Support Officer

Every summer, a number of Montana airports are due to receive airport safety inspections as required under the FAA Order 5010.4. The FAA has established certain guidelines within the 5010.4 Order for airports to help assure minimum safety standards. It is important to stress that these inspections are non-regulatory and the airport is not required to "pass" the inspection and all managers are notified prior to the inspections to solicit their participation. These inspections are performed in the interest of safety and facility notification. To carry out the inspections, the FAA contracts with the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), a non-profit member organization that each state aviation agency belongs to. NASAO then contracts individually with each state aviation agency to perform the allotted inspections each year. In Montana, the Aeronautics Division is responsible for the airport inspections. Many people who frequent a local airport may have seen the inspector buzzing around on a little red Honda 50 motorbike. The number of inspections varies from year to year, depending upon funding available. According to FAA standards, no airport will exceed a three-year period without undergoing an inspection. In Mon-

tana, most airports are inspected every two years, with some exceptions. The most visible result of the 5010 inspections is the FAA Airports and Facilities handbook. The information taken from the inspections is directly translated into the ever so familiar little green FAA handbook. The information is also used by the Aeronautics Division to determine the needs of an airport and to aid in the loan and grant decision-making process.

This year, the Montana Aeronautics Division has received a contract to perform inspections at 46 airports, with 9 specific airports mandatory for contract requirements so as to not let them lapse the three-year inspection requirement. The actual inspection involves many things and usually takes between one and two hours to complete. Items that are checked include lighting, weed encroachment, pavement distress, markings, obstruction clearance requirements and airport facilities and use. The following list is shows both the mandatory and likely airports scheduled for this years inspection tour. If you happen to see one of us out there this year, please feel free to say hi or ask us any questions. See you on the field!

LIKELY CANDIDATES

Anaconda	Eureka	Philipsburg	Turner
Benchmark	Gardiner	Plains	Twin Bridges
Big Fork	Hamilton	Schafer Meadows	Whitefish
Big Timber	Havre	Seeley Lake Seaport	Wilsall
Boulder	Hogeland	Seeley Lake	Wisdom
Butte Aero	Kalipsell City	Spotted Bear	Wise River
Condon	Lincoln	Stevensville	
Deer Lodge	Livingston	Thompson Falls	
Dillon	Malta	Townsend	
Ennis	Meadow Creek	Canyon Ferry	

MANDATORY

Conner
Drummond
Hot Springs
Libby
Polson
Ronan
St. Ignatius
Superior
Troy
Wolf Point

Calendar

June 6 - Miles City Airport Appreciation Day.

June 13 - 5th Annual Young Eagles Day.

June 15 - 19 - Top Gun Flight Camp, Rocky Mountain College, Billings.

June 17 - 20 - MAAA Air Tour. Contact Jay Billmeyer 257-8708.

June 18 - Airtour '98. Depart Edmonton June 18 or 19, arrive Dawson City June 21.

June 21 - Beacon Star Father's Day Fly-in with Frank's poorboy sourdough pancake breakfast served 8 - 11 a.m.

June 23 - 26 - Women's Air Race Classic, Santa Fe, NM to Batavia, OH.

June 27 - Plains Fly-in breakfast, call Randy Garrison 826-3605 (day) 826-3022 (eve).

June 27 - 28 - USAF graded CAP Search & Rescue Training Exercise, Missoula Airport. Contact CAP Liaison Office at (888)454-3287.

July 8 - 12 - Northwest EAA Fly-in, Arlington, WA.

July 11 - Hamilton Airport Open House and Pancake Breakfast. Contact Warren Woolley 363-0874.

July 11 - MPA North Central Hangar Annual Fly-in Breakfast and Toy Show, Havre City County Airport.

July 17 - 19 - Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 17 - 19 - Kalispell Family Fly-in, Kalispell City Airport.

July 29 - August 4 - 46th Annual EAA Fly-in Convention, Oshkosh, WI.

August 6 - 9 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association Three Forks Fly-in, Progreba Field.

August 7 - 9 - Fifth Annual Splash-in - Fly-in, Stillwater Landing, Lower Stillwater Lake, 14 miles northwest of Whitefish.

August 8 - 9 - CAP Search & Rescue Training Exercise, Kalispell Airport. Contact CAP Liaison Office at (888)454-3287.

August 15 - Fly-in Pancake Breakfast, War Bird Fly-bys, Bozeman Airport. Contact John McKenna 587-4746.

September 4 - 7 - 5th Annual Silver City Fly-in, Silver City Airport.

September 5 - 7 - Annual Labor Day Family Fly-in, West Yellowstone.

September 11 - 13 - Laurel Fly-in and Swap Meet.

September 18 - 20 - Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

September 19 - Aerotronics Annual Open House, Billings.

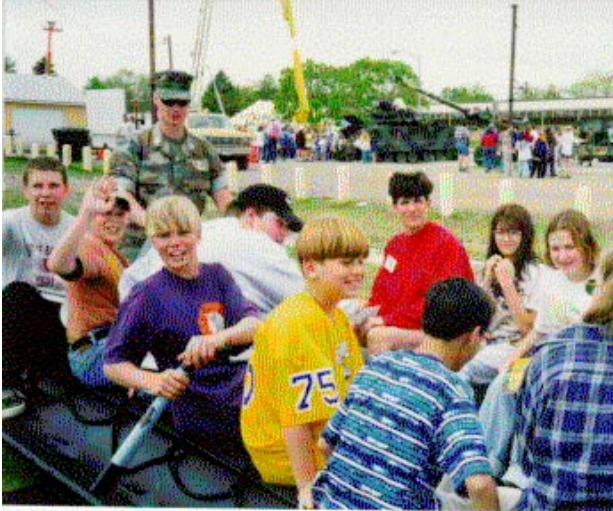
February 5 - 6, 1999 - Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena.

February 25 - 27, 1999 - Montana Aviation Conference, Copper King Inn, Butte.

OOPS!

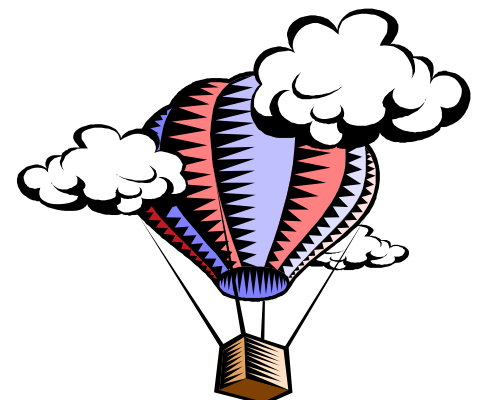
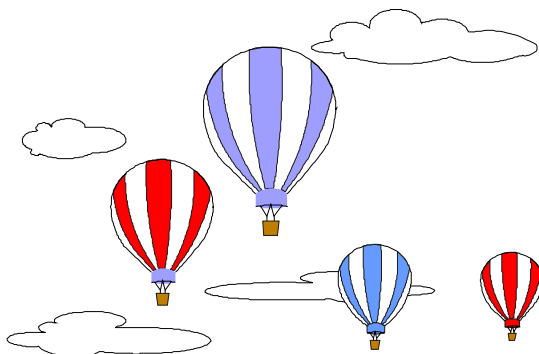
In the April issue of the newsletter it was reported that the Plains Airport received the Airport of the Year Award at the 1998 Montana Aviation Conference. Plains was a past recipient. This year's award went to the **GLEN DIVE AIRPORT**, managed by "Lonesome" Leon Baker. Sorry Leon!

Laurel Aviation and Technology Week



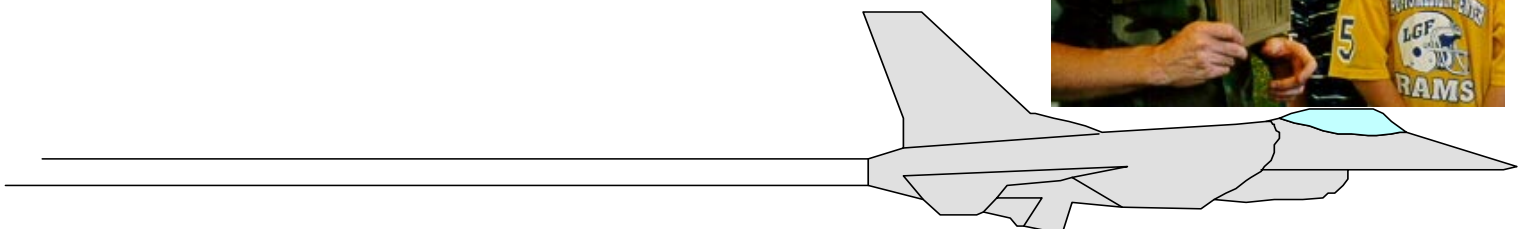
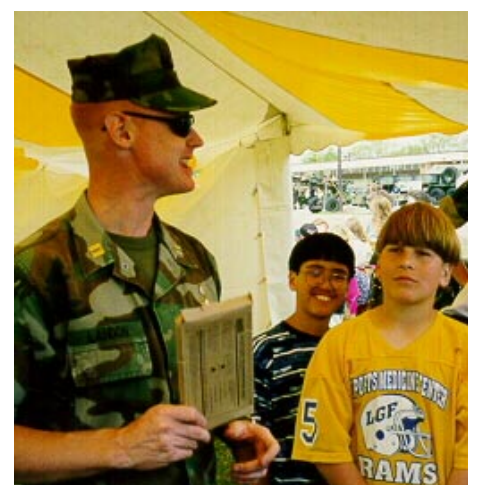
Colorful air machines, students and the public rocked Laurel during the Aviation and Technology Week.

Pictured clockwise: a) a middle school class climbs aboard a Marine life raft set up at the Thompson Park Complex; b) a Chinook helicopter capable of carrying 33 people, 26,000 pounds of equipment or a combination of people and gear from Ft. Lewis, WA lands at Thompson Park; c) Laurel students find out what the Marines are all about by "trying out" their strength on a Marines pull-up bar; d) students take a close look at Denny Lynch's A-26 tanker which was featured in the movie "Always"; e) students cover their ears as an F-16 does a fly-by.





The biennial invasion known as Laurel's Aviation and Technology Week continues: Pictured clockwise: a) Jeanne Lesnik and Shane Sanders an F-16 Flying Falcon pilot formerly of Big Timber, currently of Mountain home, ID AFB; b) these young guys get a chance to act as pilots in a C-130 military transport plane; c) this year's event which began in the classroom brought aircraft, displays and regional students plus thousands more spectators from the general public; d) an F-14 Tomcat, F-18 Hornet, F-16 and C-130 were part of the display at the Billings airport which housed those larger aircraft unable to land at the Laurel Airport; e) students learn about a day in the field life of a Marine, "what is it like to really eat an MRE?"



Piper Aviation Museum Foundation

Harry P. Mutter, Chairman of Collections at the Piper Aviation Museum in Lock Haven, PA, announced the first flight of the restored "The City of The Angels" at the Blue Knob Valley Airport in Duncansville, PA on May 13 with David Liebegott, the aircraft's restorer, at the controls. This historic Piper PA-12 Super Cruiser piloted by George Truman was the first lightplane to circumnavigate the world between August 9 and December 10, 1947. "The City of The Angels" was accompanied on this historic flight by a sister aircraft christened "The City of Washington" which is in the Smithsonian Collection at Silver Hill.

Mr. Mutter purchased the aircraft in January 1997 and obtained corporate and private sponsors to assist in the restoration. Mr. Liebegott, President of Classic Magic Aviation of Duncansville, PA, donated his time and talents to do the museum quality restoration. "The City of The Angels" bore little resemblance to its appearance at the completion of the world flight when it was acquired by Mr. Mutter. The left side of the fuselage then bore flags of all the countries they visited on their record flight, and the right side bore the names of all the cities at which they landed. The nose of the airplane bore a large US flag and the logo "The City of The Angels" on each side. The recently completed restoration restored the external appearance to its post world flight elegance.

"The City of The Angels" will be on display at the Piper Aviation Museum when it is not out flying to promote the museum. The first major promotional tour to Canada and Alaska will depart from the museum on May 17, 1998. It will retrace a small portion of the original route from Delta Junction, Alaska to Lethbridge, Alberta, along the Alaska Highway. Other scheduled appearances of this historic aircraft will be Sentimental Journey Fly-in on June 24-27 in Lock Haven, and at the EAA Fly-in Convention in Oshkosh, WI on July 29 - August 4, 1998.

Please Don't Get Disoriented

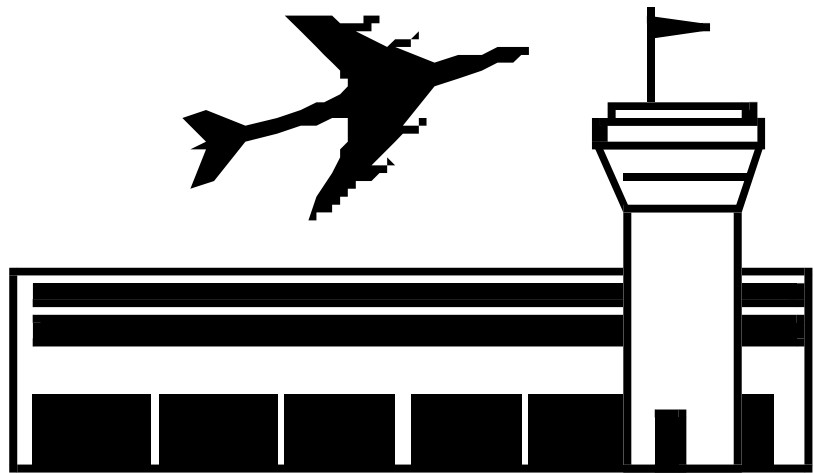
We want our pilots to live a long, flourishing life. Remember IFR skills are perishable skills and need revisiting often. Proficiency and currency, do yourself and your passengers a favor by keeping yourself in peak shape on the instrument gauges. Go for an instrument competency check every six months with a Certificated Instrument Flight Instructor or practice at least monthly with a fellow safety pilot. Know the limitations of yourself and the aircraft you fly and stay within those limitations. An aircraft accident where the pilot loses control of the airplane is almost always avoidable. The prevention plan is proficiency, currency and the judgement to know when it is best to stay on the ground.

Tom Landry Named to Air Safety Foundation Board of Visitors

Tom Landry, legendary former coach of the Dallas Cowboys, has been named to the AOPA Air Safety Foundation (ASF) Board of Visitors.

Landry has a unique insight into teaching and motivating people *and* he is an experienced aviator. Since its founding in 1950, ASF has worked for improved general aviation safety through research, training, and education programs. ASF annually conducts more than 300 free aviation safety courses nationwide. Its latest seminar, "Weather Strategies," gives pilots practical tools to deal with general aviation's number one safety problem.

Landry, 73, for 29 years head coach of the Dallas Cowboys was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990. He holds a Commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating. A B-17 co-pilot with 30 missions over Germany during World War II, he continued flying with the Air Force Reserve. He currently owns and flies a Cessna 210.



WELCOME BIGSKY AIRLINES NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

BigSky Transportation Co. dba BigSky Airlines announced the selection of Kim B. Champney as the company's new President & Chief Executive Officer, concluding an extensive search effort. Reporting directly to Champney will be the company's Executive VP & COO, Craig Denney, and the VP & Acting CFO, Brent Johnson. Champney also will be a member of the board of directors.

For the past four years, Mr. Champney has been employed by Merlin Express, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fairchild Aircraft Incorporated. Merlin operates 37 Fairchild Metroliner aircraft in several areas of the lower U.S., Caribbean South American, Mexican and Alaskan markets, primarily in express cargo configuration. As Vice President of Business Development at Merlin Express, Champney has been responsible for that company's new business development, customer relations and product pricing, including its recent expansion into passenger operations. Merlin has experienced significant growth in the last few years.

Previously, Mr. Champney was employed by Mohawk Airlines, Empire Airlines, Inc., DHL Airways, Inc. Braniff, Inc. and Piedmont Airlines.

Positions held during his career included, Director of Airline Planning, Chief Financial Officer, Directory of Financial Analysis, Treasurer, Controller and Manager of General Accounting. Champney holds a B.S. Degree in Accounting from Rochester Institute of Technology, in Rochester New York. He is a native of Upstate New York.

During 1997, BigSky Airlines completed a major modernization and expansion of its aircraft fleet and conversion to FAR Part 121 (major carrier) operating regulations, added flights to its Essential Air Service network in central and eastern Montana, and began three roundtrip daily service linking Helena and Missoula with Billings, MT, replacing Horizon Air. BigSky operates a fleet of six 19-passenger Metro III aircraft and serves twelve cities in the state of Montana, including Lewistown, Havre, Glasgow, Wolf Point, Sidney, Glendive, Miles City, Billings, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula and Kalispell and offers direct service linking Billings and Great Falls with Spokane, WA.

BigSky Transportation Co. is a publicly-owned corporation and is actively seeking growth and development opportunities.

Space Station Mock-up Visits Montana

Two full-scale mock-up modules of the International Space Station toured Montana at the invitation of Senator Conrad Burns, visiting six Montana communities. One of the modules was a recreation of the living quarters and the other a scientific lab.

The first module set-up to walk through is the living quarters or home away from home for six different astronauts at three to five month intervals as soon as it is assembled in space. Each crew of astronauts, from many different countries, will have a specific mission to accomplish while in space.

There will be a total of seven modules on the space station. Six of them are scientific labs and one the living quarters. The living quarters has three sleeping compartments with sleep restraints. The astronaut will zip themselves in and velcro their head down when it's time for them to sleep so they don't float around. Each sleep restraint will be custom fit to make things more comfortable.

Astronauts will have the option of tethering themselves to a handle if they do not wish to sleep in a restraint. Each will sleep six hours a day and not all at the same time.

Something new to the space module this year is a refrigerator and freezer. Astronauts will eat the dehydrated food once the fresh and frozen food is gone. There is a rehydration unit on board that adds water back to the food so it can be warmed up properly.

Each astronaut will be allowed one shower a week with one-and-a-half gallons of water. After they shower, the water is returned to a water purifying processor. All the water is recycled through the processor and reused over and over again.



To keep their muscles in shape the astronauts will row two hours a day on a machine attached in the living quarters.

The space station will be located 220 miles above the earth. It will weigh 950,000 pounds and will cover the same amount of area as one-and-a-half football fields. The U.S. science lab will have an artificial light chamber and a furnace that will heat objects up to see how they react in that atmosphere. There are many other scientific experiments planned.

The space shuttle will serve as the medium pay load carrier to get the modules into space. There are 49 launches scheduled to get all in place and the facility should be completely operational by the year 2003. The first U.S. launch is scheduled for September.

The International Space Station is considered to be the largest scientific cooperative program in history, drawing on the resources and scientific expertise of 16 nations. The United States, Canada, Japan, 11 European countries, Russia and Brazil.



The full scale two module mock-up was on display at the Helena College of Technology. The sleeping "bag" that astronauts will sleep in is complete with zippers and velcro. Lieutenant Governor Judy Martz visits with public relation specialists from the Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from Huntsville, Alabama.



New Malta Airport

On May 15th, the new Malta airport opened, and the old airport closed. The new Malta airport was made possible with the aid of an FAA AIP grant. The new airport is located 1½ miles Northwest of the old site, just North of U.S. highway 2 and the railroad tracks and just West of the town of Malta. The new airport has a Medium-intensity runway lighting system that is on until midnight and then can be activated by radio using 5 clicks on the Unicom frequency of 122.8. Fuel is available at the new airport 24 hrs with a credit card dispensing system. The 8/26 oriented asphalt runway is 4500' long and has a precision approach path indicator (PAPI) at both ends. The lat/long of the airport is 48-22-00.99N by 107-55-09.64W and the elevation is 2254'. Please remember that the old airport, even though it may look viable is closed, and pilots should refrain from using it.



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Let Us Know

If you know of a unique place to fly into please let us at Montana Aeronautics know. We would like to keep our readers informed of your discoveries and/or well kept secrets. There are many fly-in resorts, dude ranches, fishing/camping sites, restaurants that are accessible by air and we want to help spread the good word.

Notice

R. Stephen Irwin, MD, Board Certified in Family Practice, has recently been certified to do Class II and III FAA Flight Physical exams. Dr. Irwin can be reached at the Western Montana Clinic in Polson, 1 14th Avenue West or call (406)883-5680.

Twenty nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,123. This includes \$120 for production, \$783 for postage and \$220 for printing.

Notice To All Pilots Flying Into Yellowstone Airport

The CTAF for the Yellowstone Airport, located at West Yellowstone Montana, has been changed to **123.00 MHz**. Please make a note of this if you intend to fly into this airport.

Flying an airplane is not different from riding a bicycle. It's just a lot harder to put base-ball cards in the spokes.

—*Captain Rex Kramer, in the movie 'Airplane.'*

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